

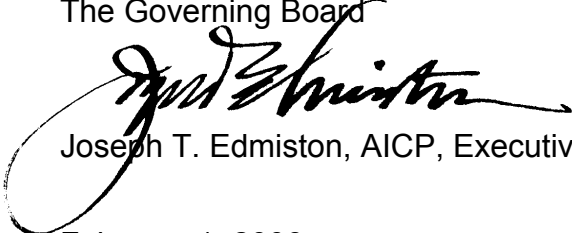


MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center and Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90265
Phone (323) 221-9944 Fax (323) 221-9934

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, AICP, Executive Officer

DATE: February 1, 2006

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI (k): Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to Ventura County regarding proposed amendments to fuel modification ordinance.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing adopt a resolution authorizing staff to prepare and the Chair to approve a letter to the County of Ventura regarding proposed amendments to the County's fuel modification ordinance.

Background: The Ventura County Board of Supervisors held a study session on November 22, 2005, with the Ventura County Fire Protection District. One of the strategic initiatives outlined by the Fire Chief was to "Develop a more assertive fire prevention/life safety program centering on residential fire sprinklers, *wildland fire management* [italics added], and community education." The Chief's letter further states:

The Fire District has created a model weed abatement and hazard reduction program. Even with its success, there is room for improvement by possibly increasing the weed abatement required clearance and fostering better partnerships with local, state, and federal open space managers. Any increased clearance distance would be a quantified formula using several factors and applied to specific cases.

Since the MRCA is one of the agencies with significant open space parkland acreage in the county, and since any expansion of a fuel abatement zone beyond the current 100 feet from structures will have very significant implications to the MRCA both financially and in resource impacts, it is important to maintain a dialogue with the County Fire Protection District and the Board of Supervisors.

With the Board's approval, staff will prepare a letter for the Chair's approval and signature, outlining the MRCA's concern and experience with fuel modification zones and offering to continue to meet with the Fire Protection District to ensure that any change to the zone width is truly efficacious and does not unnecessarily cause resource impacts to parkland purchased and protected with scarce park dollars.

